CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   uploading a scanned barcode from a portable scanner; and

3   processing at least the scanned barcode electronically.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the scanned barcode

2 is a coupon barcode scanned and digitally stored in the

3 portable scanner.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the uploading of the

2 scanned barcode comprises

3   establishing a communication path between the portable

4 scanner and a Point of Sale (POS) system at a retail store;

5 and

6   transmitting the scanned barcode to the POS system for

7 processing.

1   4.   The method of claim 2, wherein prior to processing

2 at least the scanned barcode, the method comprises retrieving

3 coupon barcodes from a storage location on a server associated

4 with a customer assigned the portable scanner, the coupon

5 barcodes being electronic coupons that have been non-redeemed

6 to date.

1   5.   The method of claim 2, wherein prior to processing

2   at least the scanned barcode, the method comprises scanning

3   coupon barcodes from paper coupons provided by a customer

4   assigned the portable scanner.

1   6.   The method of claim 3 wherein the processing of the

2   scanned barcode being a coupon barcode comprises comparing a

3   manufacturer code from the coupon barcode with a product

4   barcode read by the POS system, and if a match, analyzing each

5   field of the coupon barcode, including a value code, an offer

6   code, an expiration code, and any terms and conditions

7   associated with the coupon barcode, to verify that a purchased

8   product meets terms set by the coupon barcode.

1   7.   The method of claim 3, wherein the processing of the

2   scanned barcode being a coupon barcode further comprises

3   redeeming the scanned coupon by determining if a purchase of a

4   product satisfies redemption rules and meets a plurality of

5   terms of coupon definitions.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the redeeming of the

2   scanned coupon further comprises generating a detailed proof

3   of purchase for every coupon redemption transaction, the proof

4   of purchase comprises at least two of the following: (i) a

5   date stamp, (ii) a time stamp, (iii) a retail store location,

6   (iv) a POS terminal location, (v) an original selling price of

7 a product purchased and associated with the scanned coupon,

8 (vi) a face value of the scanned coupon redeemed, (vii)

9 additional discounts offered by a retailer's POS system,

10 (viii) a net price paid by a consumer, and (ix) an identity of

11 the consumer who redeemed the scanned coupon.

1 9. Adapted to a portable scanner system supporting

2 electronic coupon validation and redemption, a portable

3 scanner comprising:

4 a communication port;

5 an optical converter;

6 a processing unit in communication with the optical

7 converter and the communication port; and

8 an internal memory coupled to the processing unit, the

9 internal memory comprises a plurality of data storage

10 groupings including (1) a first data storage grouping being a

11 list of coupons, inaccessible for redemption, that are

12 currently available for a particular geographic region, and

13 (2) a second data storage grouping being a list of coupons,

14 accessible for redemption, that were scanned and matched with

15 a coupon of the first data storage grouping.

1 10. The portable scanner of claim 9, wherein the

2 internal memory further comprises a third data storage

3 grouping including a list of coupons, accessible for

4 redemption, that were scanned and unmatched with a coupon of

5 the first data storage grouping.

1	11.	The portable scanner of claim 10, wherein the

2	internal memory further comprises a fourth data storage

3	grouping being configured to store a manufacturer code for

4	each manufacturer participating in the portable scanner

5	system.

1	12.	The portable scanner of claim 9 further comprising a

2	display to illustrate coupon descriptive information being

3	alphanumeric characters to identify at least one of the

4	following:	a value of a coupon, expiration date of a coupon,

5	a description of a discounted product, and a description of a

6	manufacturer of the discounted product.

1	13.	The portable scanner of claim 12 further comprising

2	an interface to enable a customer to control operations of the

3	scanner, the interface comprises (i) at least one scroll key

4	that, when depressed, enables a customer to scroll and review

5	alphanumeric characters on the display, and (ii) a scan key

6	that, when depressed, activates the optical converter to scan

7	a data object.

1	14.	The system of claim 13, wherein the internal memory

2	further contains a unique identification number to enable

3	identification of scanner 210 and the customer.

1	15.	A portable scanner system comprising:

2   an in-store server;

3   a Point-of-Sale (POS) system in communication with the

4   in-store server;

5   a portable scanner that comprises internal memory to

6   store a plurality of electronic coupons stored as coupon

7   barcodes;

8   a Point-of-Sale (POS) system in communication with the

9   portable scanner to receive downloaded electronic coupons from

10 the portable scanner; and

11   in-store server in communication with the POS system, the

12 in-store server to control validation and redemption of the

13 electronic coupons.

1   16. The system of claim 15, wherein the POS system

2   includes a POS terminal and a docking station in communication

3   with the POS terminal, the docking station adapted for

4   coupling and communication with the portable scanner.

1   17. The system of claim 15 further comprising a kiosk in

2   communication with the in-store server, the kiosk adapted for

3   coupling and communication with the portable scanner.

1   18. The system of claim 15 further comprising a kiosk in

2   communication with the in-store server, the kiosk comprises a

3   scanner/barcode reader for scanning and collecting printed

4   coupons deposited by a customer, coupon information read by

5   the scanner/barcode reader is stored within a database in the

6   in-store server.

1   19.   A method comprising:

2   comparing a manufacturer code from a coupon barcode with

3   a product barcode read by a Point-of-Sale (POS) system; and

4   if a match, analyzing each field of the coupon barcode,

5   including a value code, an offer code, an expiration code, and

6   any other terms and conditions associated with the coupon

7   barcode, to verify that a purchased product and date of

8   purchase satisfies each term set by the coupon barcode.